



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2006

COUNTY SEEKS TO INCREASE RECYCLING BY 15 PERCENT ***Cardboard Boxes, Mixed Paper Now Required to be Recycled***

Residents in the County's unincorporated areas will be asked to add cardboard boxes and mixed paper to the list of materials they are required to recycle. The County of San Diego is adding these materials effective immediately to increase the recycling by an additional 15 percent and to maintain the 50 percent trash diversion required by the state.

Unincorporated areas currently recycle, compost and source reduce at least 50 percent of their trash. Keeping the diversion rate up requires a constant effort by County residents, businesses and government. The paper and cardboard recycling mandate is one of several new pushes by the County Department of Public Works to meet state mandates.

Prior to the new rules, residents were required to recycle newspaper, glass bottles and jars, plastic drink bottles, steel and aluminum cans, appliances and yard waste. The new ordinance requires that residents also recycle cardboard and mixed paper. Mixed paper includes mail, magazines, phone books, cereal boxes, catalogs, copy paper, clean food boxes, paper bags, etc. It does not include paper towels, tissues, plasticized and waxed paper, or dirty food boxes (such as pizza boxes).

Waste and recycling hauling companies already accept the added materials that are mixed together with other recyclables. "Single stream" recycling collection allows the addition of new materials fairly seamlessly.

Enforcement of the recycling ordinance is important for the County. Staff has an assistance package and work with county residents voluntarily wherever possible. For more information, call Wayne Williams at (858) 874-4108.

###